

For Immediate Release

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## **GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS PREPAREDNESS MONTH FOR NORTH DAKOTA CITIZENS**

Bismarck, N.D. – Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed September as Preparedness Month in North Dakota to raise awareness about the importance of being prepared in the event of natural or national emergencies. This event is sponsored by the N.D. Citizen Corps Council, local American Red Cross chapters, the Division of Homeland Security of the N.D. Department of Emergency Services (DES) and local and tribal emergency managers. These organizations along with other federal, state, local, private and volunteer agencies are working to deter, prevent and respond to all types of disasters and emergencies.

“Preparedness Month creates an important opportunity for every North Dakotan to learn more about preparing for all types of emergencies, from potential terrorist attacks to natural disasters,” Hoeven said. “If we take steps now to become better prepared, we can minimize the injuries and damage that might result from a potential emergency.”

Preparedness Month allows North Dakotans a variety of opportunities to learn more about preparing for emergencies. Events, activities, and messages across the state will encourage individuals to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, be informed about different threats and get involved in preparing their communities.

“People can take a few simple steps to make preparedness a priority in their homes, schools, businesses and communities,” said Susan Reinertson, Director, Division of Homeland Security. “Citizens who prepare themselves for an emergency will be able to endure potential loss of services.”

North Dakotans are encouraged to participate in citizen preparedness activities. Preparedness information and links to other web sites with detailed information can be found on the DES website, [www.state.nd.us/des](http://www.state.nd.us/des), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), and the American Red Cross [www.redcross.org/prepare/makeaplan.html](http://www.redcross.org/prepare/makeaplan.html).

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